(b) if so, the details of the areas and the wasteful expenditure incurred annually by them during the last three years; and

(c) the corrective measures taken so far to lessen/stop such wasteful expenditure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) There are no areas of wasteful expenditure in the Departments under this Ministry, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

O.F.C. Network in the Country

3804. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the plan for adding more Optical Fibre Cable network in the telecom sector during the year 2002-2003; and

(b) the number of direct exchange lines to be added during the year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited has a plan to add 75000 RKMs of Optical Fibre Cable network and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited to add 2060 RKMs of Optical Fibre Cable network during 2002-2003.

(b) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited proposes to add 64.34 lakh Direct Exchange Lines (DELs) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited to add 5.49 lakh Direct Exchanges Lines (DELs) during the year 2002-2003.